THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The providing of a level playing field to indigenous manufacturers of vital drugs through the imposition of import duty/C.V.D. is considered essential to ensure the health security of the country. The step undertaken in the Budget will, in the long run, moderate the cost of cancer drugs for the patients.

Report on National Cancer Research Programme

*408. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Cancer Research Programme has been entrusted to the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare;

(b) if so, whether the Institute has submitted its report on the evaluation of the programme; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The work relating to evaluation of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) has been entrusted to the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The task was entrusted to National Institute of Health and Family Welfare in the month of June, 2001 and the Institute has indicated that final report would be submitted by October, 2002. An interim evaluation report has been submitted by the Institute on 15th of April, 2002.